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United Nations

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Twenty-third session (11-15 April 2011)

General Assembly
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Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Twenty-third session
(11-15 April 2011)

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document

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I. Introduction

1. The Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) was established in pursuance of General Assembly resolutions 32/162 of 19 December 1977 and 56/206 of 21 December 2001.

2. The report of the Governing Council on the work of its twenty-third session is submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with section II, paragraph 6, of resolution 32/162 and paragraph 7 of section A of General Assembly resolution 56/206.

3. The Governing Council consists of 58 members, each elected for a four-year term by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations: 16 from African States, 13 from Asian States, 6 from Eastern European States, 10 from Latin American and Caribbean States and 13 from Western European and other States. At the time of its twenty-third session, the Governing Council had five vacant seats.

4. At the time of its twenty-third session, the Governing Council was composed of the following members, whose terms of office expire on 31 December of the year in brackets after the country name:

African States (16)

Algeria (2014)
Burkina Faso (2011)
Central African Republic (2014)
Congo (2011)
Côte d'Ivoire (2012)
Ethiopia (2012)
Gabon (2014)
Kenya (2011)
Mali (2014)
Mozambique (2014)
Nigeria (2014)
Rwanda (2012)
Sudan (2012)
Swaziland (2011)
Tunisia (2012)
Zambia (2011)

Western European and other States (13)

Finland (2014)
France (2012)
Germany (2011)
Israel (2011)
Norway (2012)
Spain (2012)
Turkey (2014)

Cuba (2014)
Grenada (2010)
Guatemala (2012)
Honduras (2011)
Jamaica (2011)
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (2014)

Asian States (13)

Afghanistan (2012)
Bahrain (2011)
Bangladesh (2012)
China (2012)
India (2011)
Indonesia (2014)
Iran (Islamic Republic of) (2014)
Iraq (2011)
Japan (2014)
Pakistan (2014)
Republic of Korea (2012)
Saudi Arabia (2011)
Sri Lanka (2011)

Eastern European States (6)

Albania (2014)
Armenia (2012)
Czech Republic (2012)

United States of America (2014)
Five vacant seats

Romania (2011)
Russian Federation (2014)
Serbia (2011)

Latin American and Caribbean States (10)

Antigua and Barbuda (2012)
Argentina (2014)
Brazil (2011)
Chile (2014)

5. The twenty-third session of the Governing Council was held at the headquarters of UN Habitat in Nairobi from 11 to 15 April 2011.

II. Organization of the session (agenda items 1-4)

A. Opening of the session

6. The twenty-third session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) was opened at 10.30 a.m. on Monday, 11 April 2011, by Mr. Clifford Everald Warmington (Jamaica), President of the Governing Council.

7. The formal opening of the session was preceded by a welcoming musical performance by young people mostly from Nairobi's Korogocho informal settlement who were part of the Ghetto Classics Programme supported by UN-Habitat.

8. Opening statements were made by Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi; Ms. Inga Björk-Klevby, Deputy Executive Director of UN-Habitat, on behalf of the Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon; Mr. Joan Clos, Executive Director of UN-Habitat; and Mr. Mwai Kibaki, President of Kenya.

9. Prior to the delivery of the statement by the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, a video was screened on the work of UN-Habitat in Haiti as part of the organization's contribution to the lives of the people of Haiti after the earthquake that had afflicted that country in 2010.

B. Attendance

10. The following States members of the Governing Council were represented: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Congo, Czech Republic, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Turkey, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zambia.

11. The following States not members of the Governing Council participated as observers: Angola, Australia, Austria, Botswana, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Colombia, Comoros, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Haiti, Holy See,

Hungary, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Lesotho, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Suriname, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe.

12. An observer for Palestine also participated.

13. The World Food Programme was also represented.

14. Representatives of national and regional assemblies and parliaments, local authorities and national, regional and international associations of local authorities attended the meeting, as did representatives of non-governmental and private-sector organizations.

15. A full list of those attending the session may be found in the list of participants, which is available under the symbol HSP/GC/23/INF/8.

C. Election of officers

16. At the 1st plenary meeting, on Monday, 11 April 2011, Mr. Vincent Karega (Rwanda) was elected President of the Governing Council at its twenty-third session.

17. The following other officers were also elected for the session:

Vice-Presidents:
Mr. Konrad Paulsen (Chile)
Mr. Liu Guangyuan (China)
Mr. Sergey Trepelkov (Russian Federation)

Rapporteur:
Ms. Heli Sirve (Finland)

D. Credentials

18. In pursuance of rule 16, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure of the Governing Council, the Bureau reported to the Governing Council at its 7th plenary meeting, on 15 April 2011, that it had examined the credentials submitted by delegations attending the twenty-third session of the Governing Council and had found them to be in order. The Governing Council approved the report of the Bureau on credentials at the same meeting.

E. Adoption of the agenda

19. At its 1st plenary meeting, the Governing Council had before it documents HSP/GC/23/1 and Add.1. The Governing Council adopted the provisional agenda for the twenty-third session as contained in document HSP/GC/23/1, as follows:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Election of officers.
3. Credentials.
4. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

5. Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including coordination matters.

6. Dialogue on the special theme for the twenty-third session of the Governing Council.

7. Work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 2012-2013.

8. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council.

9. Other matters.

10. Adoption of the report of the session.

11. Closure of the session.

F. Organization of work

20. At its 1st plenary meeting, the Governing Council established a sessional committee of the whole, to which it allocated agenda items 5, 7 and 8, with issues arising from those and other items also to be given consideration in general debate at the plenary meetings of the Council.

21. The preliminary work of the plenary meetings was divided into two segments; first, a high level segment, with interventions primarily by ministers and other heads of delegations, which would be held on the first and second days; and, second, a dialogue of Governments with local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners on the special theme of the meeting, to be held on the third day.

22. The Governing Council also established a drafting committee to consider the draft resolutions submitted to the Governing Council.

23. In considering the agenda items, representatives had before them the documents listed for each item in the annotations to the agenda for the session (HSP/GC/23/1/Add.1). A list of those documents arranged by document symbol was issued in document HSP/GC/23/INF/1.

G. Work of the Committee of the Whole

24. The Committee of the Whole established by the Governing Council at its 1st plenary meeting was chaired by Mr. Liu Guangyuan (China), one of the three vice-presidents of the Governing Council and, in his absence, Mr. Sergey Trepelkov (Russian Federation) a fellow vice-president. It held four meetings between 11 April and 14 April. At its 1st meeting, on the afternoon of Monday, 11 April 2011, the Chair informed the Committee that it would consider agenda items 5, 7 and 8.

25. At its 4th and final meeting, on the afternoon of Thursday, 14 April, the Committee adopted the report of its deliberations. At its meetings, it had succeeded in achieving consensus on all agenda items before it. The report of the Committee of

the Whole is reproduced in the proceedings of the Governing Council at its twenty-third session.[1]

II. Work of the drafting committee and adoption of resolutions

26. The drafting committee held 11 meetings during the session and reached agreement by consensus on 18 draft resolutions.

27. Those 18 resolutions, as adopted by the Governing Council at its 7th plenary meeting, on the morning of Friday, 15 April, are reproduced in the annex to the present report.

III. High-level segment and dialogue on the special theme for the twenty-third session of the Governing Council (agenda items 5-7)

28. The Governing Council took up agenda items 5-7 at its 1st plenary meeting, at which time it began the high-level general debate on those agenda items. The general debate continued at its 2nd, 3rd and 4th meetings, on Monday and Tuesday, 11 and 12 April. A summary of the general debate by the President of the Governing Council is set forth in the proceedings of the Governing Council at its twenty-third session.

29. At its 5th and 6th plenary meetings, on Wednesday, 13 April, the Council held the dialogue on the special theme for the session under agenda item 6. The dialogue was divided into two panels, each with a moderator, and chaired by the President of the Governing Council. A summary of the dialogue prepared by the Rapporteur is set forth in the proceedings.

IV. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council (agenda item 8)

30. The Governing Council considered the agenda item at its 7th plenary meeting, on Friday, 15 April. It adopted decision 23/1 on the provisional agenda for the twenty-fourth session, the text of which is reproduced in the annex to the present report.

31. On the recommendation of the Bureau, it was decided that the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council should be held from 15 to 19 April 2013 at UN-Habitat headquarters, Nairobi. One representative suggested that those dates would leave insufficient time to prepare for the meeting, given their proximity to the dates of the session of the Governing Council of UNEP. Another representative requested that the session should not be held in April, as a number of important holidays for countries in Asia would fall during that month. The representative of the secretariat undertook to examine the matter further.

[1] The full account of the proceedings, containing, among other things, chapters on the discussion under each agenda item, will be issued under the symbol HSP/GC/23/7.

V. Other matters (agenda item 9)

32. No other matters were discussed.

VI. Adoption of the report of the session (agenda item 10)

33. At the 7th plenary meeting, the Chair of the Committee of the Whole gave an oral presentation on the deliberations of the Committee.

34. The report of the session was adopted by the Governing Council at its 7th plenary meeting, on Friday, 15 April 2011, on the basis of the draft that had been circulated during the session and on the understanding that the secretariat and the Rapporteur would be entrusted with its finalization.

VII. Closure of the session (agenda item 11)

35. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the President declared the session closed at 12.10 p.m. on Friday, 15 April 2011.

Annex

Decision and resolutions adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme at its twenty-third session

A. Decision

Decision No.	Title	Date of adoption	Page
23/1	Provisional agenda of the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme	15 April 2011	9

B. Resolutions

Resolution No.	Title	Date of adoption	Page
23/1	Gender equality and empowerment of women in sustainable urban development	15 April 2011	9
23/2	Human settlements development in the Occupied Palestinian Territory	15 April 2011	11
23/3	Support for pro poor housing	15 April 2011	12
23/4	Sustainable urban development through access to quality urban public spaces	15 April 2011	13
23/5	World Urban Forum	15 April 2011	15
23/6	Implementation of the Bamako Declaration and action plan and the strengthening of the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development	15 April 2011	17
23/7	Urban youth development: the next step	15 April 2011	18
23/8	Third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development	15 April 2011	20
23/9	Global and national strategies and frameworks for improving the lives of slum dwellers beyond the Millennium Development Goals target	15 April 2011	22

23/10	Future activities by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in urban economy and financial mechanisms for urban upgrading, housing and basic services for the urban poor	15 April 2011	24
23/11	Work programme and budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the biennium 2012-2013	15 April 2011	26
23/12	Coordinated implementation of the guidelines on access to basic services for all and the guidelines on decentralization and strengthening of local authorities	15 April 2011	28
23/13	Governance of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme	15 April 2011	30
23/14	Sustainable urban development through policies for safer cities and urban crime prevention	15 April 2011	31
23/15	Country activities by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme	15 April 2011	34
23/16	Formulation of a global housing strategy	15 April 2011	36
23/17	Sustainable urban development through expanding equitable access to land, housing, basic services and infrastructure	15 April 2011	37
23/18	Natural disaster risk reduction, preparedness, prevention and mitigation as a contribution to sustainable urban development	15 April 2011	42

Decision 23/1: Provisional agenda of the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

The Governing Council decided that the provisional agenda of its twenty-fourth session would be as follows:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Credentials.
4. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
5. Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including coordination matters.
6. Dialogue on the special theme for the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council.
7. Work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 2014-2015.
8. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council.
9. Other matters.
10. Adoption of the report of the session.
11. Closure of the session.

7th plenary meeting
15 April 2011

Resolution 23/1: Gender equality and empowerment of women in sustainable urban development

The Governing Council,

Recalling its resolutions 17/11 of 14 May 1999 on women in human settlements development and in the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), 19/16 of 9 May 2003 on women's role and rights in human settlements development and slum upgrading, 20/7 of 8 April 2005 on gender equality in human settlements development, 21/2 of 20 April 2007 on the medium-term strategic and institutional plan for 2008-2013, 21/9 of 20 April 2007 on women's land and property rights and access to finance, and 22/7 of 3 April 2009 on the work programme and budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the biennium 2010-2011,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2008/34, by which the Economic and Social Council encouraged all United Nations entities to allocate adequate resources for gender mainstreaming, including for mandatory training on gender mainstreaming, especially gender analysis, for all staff,

Recognizing that persistent gender inequality, women's lack of empowerment and equitable access to land, secure tenure, housing, infrastructure and basic services, in addition to their lack of participation in decision-making, create further challenges within the context of sustainable urban development,

Recognizing also the major development contributions made by grass-roots women worldwide, and that successful urbanization and development processes require grass-roots women's involvement and leadership, which should be supported so as to have a positive impact on sustainable urban development,

Welcoming General Assembly resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010 establishing the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, which aims to lead to more effective coordination, coherence and gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system,

Taking note of the challenges to and the progress made in the implementation of the gender equality action plan 2008-2013 described in the report of the Executive Director,[1]

1. *Requests* the Executive Director to strengthen the Gender Mainstreaming Unit and, with the Unit, to manage a unified system of gender focal points and a gender task force effective throughout the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

2. Encourages the Executive Director to continue strengthening staff capacity and competency in gender mainstreaming, including in the regional offices;

3. Encourages the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to incorporate fully a gender perspective into all its work;

4. Requests the Executive Director to encourage the establishment of a consultative mechanism with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, the gender units of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and other relevant agencies with a focus on human settlements, to promote coherence, coordination and alignment within the United Nations system and, in particular, to involve grass-roots women and community-based organizations to inform these consultations;

5. Also requests the Executive Director to set up an advisory group on gender issues consisting of representatives of women's organizations (both grass-roots and professional organizations), academic institutions, the private sector, local authorities and policymakers and decision makers in Governments, taking into account equal regional representation, to advise the Executive Director on all issues related to gender mainstreaming in the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and to provide oversight regarding the implementation of the gender equality action plan within the existing programme of work and budget;

6. Requests the Executive Director to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth and future sessions.

7th plenary meeting
15 April 2011

[1] HSP/GC/23/5/Add.7.

Resolution 23/2: Human settlements development in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

The Governing Council,

Recalling its resolution 19/18 of 9 May 2003, in which it endorsed the establishment of the Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian People and the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund, and its resolution 22/11 of 3 April 2009, in which it called upon member States to provide financial support to the Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian People and its Trust Fund,

Recognizing that shelter and human settlements remain key elements in improving the living conditions of Palestinians for building their State and in reaching a sustainable peace in the Middle East,

Appreciating and recognizing the important efforts of the Palestinian Authority in building the Palestinian institutions in order to improve the human settlements conditions of the Palestinian people while working towards sustainable urbanization,

Noting the special housing needs of the Palestinian people and the unsustainable urbanization trends leading to further deterioration in the Palestinian human settlements conditions, re-enforced by the existing situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory,

Conscious of the housing and human settlement needs of the Palestinian people especially in areas where there are acute humanitarian and development needs,

Expressing the hope that the Palestinians and the Israelis will continue to support and facilitate the Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian People, in particular the ongoing discussions towards a smooth flow of building materials into the Gaza Strip from Israel and the West Bank, with a view to alleviating the housing crisis in Gaza and facilitating economic recovery,

Noting with appreciation the renewed efforts of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), as evident in the report of the Executive Director, to mobilize its core technical expertise on planning, land and housing issues as outlined in the Habitat programme document for the Occupied Palestinian Territory (2010-2011) and the consequent improved focus of the Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian People in line with the Palestinian priorities and complementary to the efforts of other United Nations and international organizations and member States,

Expressing its appreciation to Governments and other stakeholders for their positive response to the call for financial support included in resolution 22/11,

1. *Calls upon* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) to further focus its operations on planning, land and housing issues with a view to improving the housing and human settlements conditions of Palestinians, addressing the urbanization challenges, supporting the building of a Palestinian State and fostering humanitarian action and peacebuilding in the areas where there are acute humanitarian and development needs, identified through technical assessments by UN-Habitat in coordination with all concerned parties;

2. *Encourages* the Palestinian Authority, with the support of UN-Habitat and as part of its State-building effort, to continue its efforts and further enhance its legal and institutional framework, policies and practices related to planning, land and housing so as to prepare the ground for sustainable urbanization;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director to establish and chair an advisory board to the Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian People and the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund, comprising representatives to the United Nations of contributing member States, in order to provide policy guidance to the Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian People, taking into account the evolving context, support fundraising based on identified gaps, review progress and reporting to the Governing Council and prepare the necessary Governing Council resolutions;

4. *Calls upon* member States and other stakeholders in a position to do so to financially support the Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian People and its Technical Cooperation Trust Fund so as to ensure the availability of the core expertise of UN-Habitat on planning, land and housing and the implementation of its specific programmes, as outlined in the UN-Habitat programme document for the Occupied Palestinian Territory;

5. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session on progress with regard to the Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian People, including progress in the mobilization of financial resources for the Technical Cooperation Trust Fund.

7th plenary meeting
15 April 2011

Resolution 23/3: Support for pro-poor housing

The Governing Council,

Recognizing the significant improvement in security conditions and increasing political stability in Iraq, culminating in the formation of a national consensus Government that is moving robustly towards achieving adequate and appropriate housing for all Iraqis, especially the poor, slum dwellers and those lacking shelter,

Noting that adequate and appropriate housing, including for displaced and returnee populations, is a vital factor in securing social stability,

Welcoming and recognizing that, given that poor people in Iraq account for 23 per cent of the total population and that most of them lack adequate housing, the Government of Iraq has recently endorsed pro-poor housing initiatives by allocating a portion of the federal national budget each year from 2012,

Expressing appreciation for the significant assistance and cooperation furnished by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in preparing a national housing policy in Iraq that takes into consideration several issues and dimensions, including the highly significant shortage of housing units, currently estimated to number two million,

Recognizing that the Government of Iraq approved and endorsed the national housing policy on 2 November 2010, thereby obliging all related sectoral ministries

to support the implementation of the policy, including the component regarding pro-poor housing that is also further emphasized by the national development plan for the period 2010-2014,

Recognizing also the endeavours of the Government of Iraq in the general area of housing and, specifically, pro-poor housing,

1. *Strongly encourages* the Executive Director to secure technical assistance to support housing and pro-poor housing initiatives in all stages of planning and implementation and to secure capacity-building in the fields of project management and provision of infrastructure;

2. *Calls upon* all member States in a position to do so and international institutions to support the various projects under way in Iraq throughout their duration.

7th plenary meeting
15 April 2011

Resolution 23/4: Sustainable urban development through access to quality urban public spaces

The Governing Council,

Taking note of the World Charter on the Right to the City[2] and its resolve that cities should constitute environments of full realization of all human rights and fundamental liberties assuring the dignity and collective well-being of all people, in conditions of equality and justice, and that all persons have the right to find in the city the necessary conditions for their political, economic, cultural, social and ecological realization, while assuming the duty of solidarity,

Taking into consideration the importance of public spaces that are green, safe and socially inclusive,

Noting the outcomes of the fifth session of the World Urban Forum, which took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and in particular the electronic debate on taking forward the dialogue on the right to the city and bridging the urban divide,

Noting also that the United Nations Human Settlements Programme within the medium-term strategic and institutional plan process highlights the importance of urban planning in the creation of sustainable cities,

Taking note of the most recent *State of the World's Cities* report on the right to the city,

Taking note also of the work of numerous civil society movements worldwide engaged in place-making and engaging the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in advancing the promotion of place-making, public spaces and the enhancement of the quality of urban life,

Mindful of its other resolutions adopted at its twenty-third session on issues pertaining to safer cities, gender and young people,

[2] Available from www.dpi.org/lang-en/events/details.php?page=124.

Taking note of the priorities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on sustainable urban development policies with an emphasis on beginning with the street as a point of communication, commerce, contact and improved access to the city, including access to all modes of transport, and highlighting that city planning for the effective use of streets requires participatory planning, taking into account citizens' needs in all their diversity,

1. *Invites* Governments to formulate and implement sustainable urban development policies that promote socially just and environmentally balanced uses of urban public space in conditions of urban security and gender equity that foster urban resilience;

2. *Invites* Governments and local authorities to facilitate the use of urban public spaces such as streets, parks and markets to foster social, cultural, economic and environmental convergences so that all citizens enjoy access to public spaces in a socially just landscape and under resilient environmental conditions;

3. *Invites* Governments and development partners and encourages local authorities to consider:

(a) Implementing urban environmental planning, regulation and management that promote equilibrium between urban development and the protection of natural, historic, architectural, cultural and artistic heritage, that impede segregation and territorial exclusion, that prioritize social production of public space and that encourage the social and creative economic function of cities and property; for that purpose, cities should adopt measures that foster integration and equity with quality urban public spaces that respect environmentally friendly processes;

(b) Integrating the theme of urban safety for all citizens, especially for women, girls and other vulnerable groups, as an attribute of public space, taking into account gender and age considerations, in the laws regulating the use of public space;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director through the medium-term strategic and institutional plan to advance the agenda on place-making and public spaces in a way that will consolidate local and international approaches to creating inclusive cities, enhance the knowledge of partners of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and local authorities of place-making, public spaces and the quality of urban life and facilitate and implement exchange, cooperation and research between partners working in this field;

5. *Also requests* the Executive Director, in collaboration with Habitat Agenda partners, to develop a policy approach on the role that place-making can play in meeting the challenges of our rapidly urbanizing world, to disseminate that policy and its results widely and to develop a plan for ensuring its application internationally;

6. *Further requests* the Executive Director to assist in coordinating partners of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in disseminating knowledge to existing sustainable urban development processes at all government levels;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

7th plenary meeting
15 April 2011

Resolution 23/5: World Urban Forum

The Governing Council,

Recalling paragraph 10 of its resolution 18/5 of 16 February 2001, by which it requested the Executive Director to promote a merger of the Urban Environment Forum and the International Forum on Urban Poverty into a new urban forum, with a view to strengthening the coordination of international support for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda,[3]

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 56/206 of 21 December 2001, and in particular paragraph 3 of section B, in which the General Assembly decided that the Forum would be a non legislative technical forum in which experts could exchange views in the years when the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlement Programme did not meet, and paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 56/205 of 21 December 2001, in which the General Assembly encouraged local authorities and other Habitat Agenda partners to participate, as appropriate, in the World Urban Forum in its role as an advisory body to the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlement Programme, in addition to subsequent calls by the General Assembly for all Governments to participate actively in the sessions of the World Urban Forum,[4]

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 31/140 of 17 December 1976 on the pattern of conferences, in which the General Assembly decided that United Nations bodies might hold sessions away from their established headquarters when a Government issuing an invitation for a session to be held within its territory had agreed to defray, after consultation with the Secretary General as to their nature and possible extent, the actual additional costs directly or indirectly involved,

Recalling the invitation by the General Assembly in its resolution 58/226 of 23 December 2003 to donor countries to support the participation of representatives from developing countries, and its resolution 62/198 of 19 December 2007, by which it called upon donor countries to support the participation of representatives from developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, including women and young people, in the Forum,

Recalling also its resolutions 20/10 of 8 April 2005 and 22/10 of 3 April 2009,

Reiterating the objectives of the World Urban Forum set out in annex IV to the report of the first session of the World Urban Forum, held in Nairobi from 29 April to 3 May 2002,[5]

Expressing appreciation for the report of the Executive Director on the fifth session of the World Urban Forum,[6]

Welcoming the contributions by the Government of Brazil, the State of Rio de Janeiro and the municipality of Rio de Janeiro to hosting the fifth session of the World Urban Forum in Rio de Janeiro from 22 to 26 March 2010,

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[3] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[4] General Assembly resolutions 60/203 of 22 December 2005 and 62/198 of 19 December 2007.

[5] Available from www.unhabitat.org/downloads/docs/4075_58516_report.pdf.

[6] HSP/GC/23/2/Add.2.

Welcoming also the financial contributions by the Governments of France, Norway and Spain and by the European Commission to support the participation in the Forum of representatives, including women and young people, from the African, Caribbean and Pacific group of States, including developing countries, and, in particular, least developed countries,

Expressing appreciation for the successful organization of the fifth session of the Forum, and the growing interest of the global community in the Forum, as demonstrated by five successive successful sessions and the highest-ever participation of Governments and Habitat Agenda partners from all regions in the fifth session, which has made the Forum the foremost global arena for interaction between policymakers, local government leaders, non-governmental stakeholders and expert practitioners in the field of human settlements,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to implement the main findings resulting from the lessons learned from the review of the first four sessions of the Forum[7] and the evaluation by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme of the fifth session in which there is concurrence without prejudice to any other emerging findings, and further to improve and define a timely planning process based on a results-based framework;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Director, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to assess the impact and outcome of each Forum session using a results-based approach and to incorporate that more distinctly into the programme of work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

3. *Encourages* a review of annex IV to the report of the first session of the World Urban Forum, entitled "Objectives of and arrangements for the World Urban Forum", in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, with a view to developing clearly defined roles and responsibilities of the Advisory Group described in paragraph 9 of that annex, fine-tuned general objectives of and arrangements for the Forum sessions and identification of future hosts based on experience gathered from the past five Forum sessions;

4. *Emphasizes*, in line with the progress made in the current review of the governance structure of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the need to define the role of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in the Forum to promote a more transparent, effective and timely planning process and to clarify and better define the roles and responsibilities of the host country and the Committee in advising and supporting the Executive Director in the organization of the Forum sessions;

5. *Invites* member States in a position to do so to support the Forum and requests the Executive Director to strengthen coordination as appropriate, including by enhancing the interdivisional support mechanism of the Forum, as expeditiously as possible;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

7th plenary meeting
15 April 2011

[7] HSP/GC/23/INF/3.

Resolution 23/6: Implementation of the Bamako Declaration and action plan and the strengthening of the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development

The Governing Council,

Recalling its resolution 20/2 of April 2005 on the establishment of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development,

Recalling also the Abuja Plan of Action, in which African ministers pledged their commitment to Governing Council resolution 21/8 of 20 April 2007 on the establishment of an African fund for slum upgrading and the eradication of poverty,

Noting the importance of regional forums such as the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development in promoting the Habitat Agenda[8] and issues such as access to land, adequate housing, a safe and healthy environment, basic services and employment and implementing Goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals on water, sanitation and slums,

Noting also that the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development fulfils the requirements of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan at the country and regional levels,

1. *Welcomes* the Bamako Declaration and Action Plan adopted by the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development in November 2010, which spell out the commitment of African Governments to improving land governance by stimulating land policy, administration and management to tackle housing and sustainable urban development challenges;

2. *Takes note* of the commitment by the member States of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development to make an annual contribution of 10,000 United States dollars to support the programmes of the Conference in line with the Bamako Declaration;

3. *Welcomes* the decision of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development at its special session held in Nairobi on 9 and 10 April 2011 to establish a permanent secretariat and to accept the offer of the Government of Kenya to host that secretariat;

4. *Invites* member States and development partners to consider providing financial contributions to support the implementation of the programmes of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development;

5. *Invites* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to continue to provide support to the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development for the implementation of its resolutions and action plans and to provide financial and capacity support for the work programme of the Conference for effective delivery, subject to availability of funds, in line with the work programme and budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

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[8] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

6. *Requests* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme within its available financial resources and the Government of South Africa to continue supporting the preparations for the establishment in Kenya of the permanent secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development;

7. *Invites* the members of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development to continue their endeavours and their commitment to strengthening the Conference as an institution and to implement its decisions on land, housing, finance and basic services for sustainable urban development in Africa.

7th plenary meeting
15 April 2011

Resolution 23/7: Urban youth development: the next step

The Governing Council,

Considering that nearly one fifth of the world's population is between 15 and 24 years of age, that that proportion is even higher in the developing world and that that segment of the population is affected by the problems of unemployment, poverty and unsustainable urban development, issues that may be further exacerbated by the global economic crisis,

Considering also that young people are key agents for sustainable human settlements development and positive social change and are vital resources for attaining the development goals related to the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[9]

Recalling that the Habitat Agenda[10] identifies the need to work in partnership with young people to develop and enhance effective skills and provide education and training to prepare young women and men for current and future decision-making roles and sustainable livelihoods in human settlements management and development,

Bearing in mind that by its resolution 64/134 of 18 December 2009 the General Assembly declared August 2010-August 2011 to be the United Nations International Year of Youth, with the theme "dialogue and mutual understanding",

Noting with appreciation the great interest expressed by urban young people around the world following the implementation of Governing Council resolutions 21/6 of 20 April 2007 and 22/4 of 3 April 2009 and the success of the Urban Youth Fund of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,[11] which has in its first two years of operation awarded grants totalling nearly two million United States dollars to 113 youth groups drawn from a pool of more than 3,000 applications,

[9] General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000.

[10] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[11] Previously known as the Opportunities Fund for Youth-Led Development.

Noting also with appreciation the contribution by the Government of Norway to, and the profound interest that it has demonstrated in, the Youth Empowerment Programme and the Urban Youth Fund,

Considering the positive steps made by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, in collaboration with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and other United Nations agencies and partners, in strengthening the youth agenda and the mainstreaming of issues related to young people in the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the United Nations system,

Recalling the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/81 of 14 December 1995, in particular the priority area "full and effective participation of youth in the life of society and in decision making",

1. *Encourages* Governments to give priority and support to urban-youth-led development initiatives and invites multilateral agencies, Governments at all levels, the private sector, universities and other research bodies and civil society to engage and include urban young people in participatory processes of sustainable urban development;

2. *Invites* the above parties in a position to do so to contribute financially to the Youth Empowerment Programme to ensure its continued operation and sustainability;

3. *Encourages* the Executive Director to consider implementing, in line with available resources in the work programme and budget, and with special attention to the recommendations related to the Urban Youth Fund, the following and other recommendations of the recent 2011 evaluation of the Youth Empowerment Programme:[12]

(a) Strengthen the programme's financial basis and human resources;

(b) Establish an independent youth unit;

(c) Begin the process of outsourcing the grant management of the Urban Youth Fund to the regional offices;

(d) Ensure the alignment of the thematic focuses of the Fund with the overall focuses of the key work programmes of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

4. *Also encourages* the Executive Director to strengthen further the participation of young people across the activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme through the involvement of the Youth Advisory Board, to give priority to urban youth led development initiatives and to include urban young people in participatory sustainable urban development processes;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to evaluate the operation of the Urban Youth Fund after five years and to present the results to the Governing Council at its twenty-fifth session;

6. *Also requests* the Executive Director to continue the process of mainstreaming young people throughout the work of the United Nations Human

[12] HSP/GC/23/5/Add.4.

Settlements Programme, in line with the medium-term strategic and institutional plan and the programme of work and budget, including in its general research activities and publication activities, including in respect of the *State of the Urban Youth* reports, to ensure that all organizational parts of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme interact with the Youth Empowerment Programme on all youth related issues and that youth issues, including those mentioned in the findings of the Urban Youth Research Network and the Global Youth Helpdesk, are substantially incorporated into all operational and normative programmes of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including its global reports;

7. *Encourages* the Executive Director to share and build upon the expertise and successes of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in the area of urban young people together with other United Nations agencies to explore the possibility of enhancing the substantial involvement of young people in sustainable urban development;

8. *Encourages* the Executive Director to work towards the goal that the United Nations Human Settlements Programme leads joint efforts on urban youth issues within the United Nations system;

9. *Also encourages* the Executive Director to explore the feasibility of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme appointing goodwill envoys with a focus on urban young people;

10. *Further encourages* the Executive Director to mainstream urban young people in focus areas of the strategic plan for the period 2014-2019;

11. *Requests* the Executive Director to submit a report on the progress in the implementation of the present resolution to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session.

7th plenary meeting
15 April 2011

Resolution 23/8: Third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development

The Governing Council,

Recalling the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held in Vancouver, Canada, in 1976,[13] which formed the basis for national action and international cooperation in the field of human settlements,

Recalling also the Habitat Agenda[14] and the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements[15] as the main outcomes of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held in Istanbul, Turkey, in 1996 (Habitat II), which set forth the twin goals of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements

[13] *Report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.7 and corrigendum), chap. II.

[14] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[15] Ibid., annex I.

development in an urbanizing world, and the global plan of action to attain those goals set out in the Habitat Agenda,

Recalling further the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium,[16] adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fifth special session, in 2001, by which the General Assembly invited the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-sixth session on options for reviewing and strengthening the mandate and status of the Commission on Human Settlements and the status, role and functions of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), in accordance with the relevant decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and Habitat II,

Expressing appreciation that the General Assembly, in its resolution 65/165 of 20 December 2010, encouraged the Secretary-General to consider, in his report to the General Assembly at its sixty sixth session on the question of convening in 2016 a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III), the possibility of integrating the two themes of "housing finance systems" and "sustainable urbanization", previously suggested as topics for separate high-level events of the Assembly, either into the preparatory process for Habitat III or into a combined theme for a single high-level event,

Reiterating its recommendation made at its twenty-second session that the General Assembly consider the question of convening in 2016 a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 65/165 of 20 December 2010, by which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the question of convening a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development, in collaboration with the Governing Council, for consideration by the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session,

Bearing in mind the role of cities as engines of national economic and social development and the contribution of housing to employment generation and urban poverty reduction,

Acknowledging that cities have a critical role to play in promoting energy efficiency and sustainable development through more appropriate urban planning, management and building practices, in addition to the investments required, if necessary, to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions,

Recognizing the need to minimize the negative impacts of climate change on human settlements by reducing the vulnerability of poor populations, increasing the adaptive capacities of cities, strengthening governance structures and engaging the private sector and civil society in finding practical solutions to problems in the areas of land-use planning, public transport, building design, and air and water quality,

Recognizing also that, while substantial progress has been achieved in human settlements at the national, regional and international levels over the past decade, there is a need for an in-depth review and assessment of the global progress made towards the attainment of the goals of the Habitat Agenda and of other international goals relevant to human settlements,

[16] General Assembly resolution S-25/2, annex.

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director on the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development[17] and invites the Secretary-General to include the ideas and proposals set forth therein in the Secretary-General's report to be considered by the General Assembly at its sixty sixth session;

2. *Also takes note* of the observations made in the Executive Director's report, in particular the proposed aims of a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development, the purposes of which would include to review past policies, achievements and obstacles; to put in place a new urban development agenda capable of responding to the new urban challenges and opportunities such as climate change and urban safety and security, in addition to advancing a new role for cities and local authorities; and to find ways of strengthening the institutional framework for land governance, housing and sustainable urban development;

3. *Invites* the General Assembly to deliberate further at its sixty-sixth session on the question of convening, in 2016, a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III);

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

7th plenary meeting
15 April 2011

Resolution 23/9: Global and national strategies and frameworks for improving the lives of slum-dwellers beyond the Millennium Development Goals target

The Governing Council,

Recalling the targets set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[18] of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020 and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development[19] to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people who lack access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation,

Recalling also the Habitat Agenda,[20] the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium[21] and the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[22]

[17] HSP/GC/23/2/Add.4.

[18] General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000.

[19] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[20] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[21] Resolution S 25/2, annex.

[22] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

Expressing concern at the continued increase in the number of the world's slum dwellers, the attainment of the target set forth in the Millennium Development Goals of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers notwithstanding,

Welcoming the commitment by Heads of State and Government at the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals[23] to continue working towards cities without slums, beyond current targets, by reducing slum populations and improving the lives of slum-dwellers, including by accelerating access to safe drinking water and sanitation with adequate support of the international community, by prioritizing national urban planning strategies with the participation of all stakeholders, by promoting equal access for people living in slums to public services, including health, education, energy, water and sanitation and adequate shelter, and by promoting sustainable urban and rural development; and the General Assembly's encouragement to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to continue providing the necessary technical assistance, as expressed in resolution 65/165 of 20 December 2010,

Recognizing the significant role of improved access to land and security of tenure in both improving the lives of slum-dwellers and in preventing slums,

Mindful of General Assembly resolution 65/165, in particular its paragraph 4, in which the General Assembly invited the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to consider, at its earliest convenience, appropriate global and national strategies and frameworks for future work, in order to achieve a significant improvement in the lives of slum-dwellers beyond the current slum-related targets, in the light of the continued increase in the number of slum-dwellers in the world,

1. *Invites* Governments and regional and local authorities to enumerate the slum populations in their countries, regions and urban areas and, on that basis, to set voluntary and realistic national, regional and local targets, to be attained by 2020, with regard to improving significantly the lives of slum-dwellers through the formulation and implementation of national urban development strategies that prioritize improved access to adequate housing and basic services and infrastructure for slum-dwellers, including improved water and sanitation, transport, energy, health and education, and by promoting access to affordable land with secure tenure and creating the conditions, when appropriate, necessary for sustainable urban livelihoods, sustainable urban development and the participation of all stakeholders, in particular slum-dwellers;

2. *Requests* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to provide, within its current budget and in line with the medium-term strategic and institutional plan or its subsequent strategic plan, technical and advisory assistance to Governments and regional and local authorities wishing to assess their slum population levels and trends, set voluntary, national, regional and local 2020 targets, prepare national, regional and local slum prevention and upgrading strategies and plans, formulate and implement slum upgrading and housing programmes and monitor implementation progress and report periodically to the Governing Council

[23] A/RES/65/1.

and the General Assembly in order to assist the international community in the global monitoring of progress and of the scale of work that needs to be done;

3. *Invites* Governments and regional and local authorities to prioritize slum prevention and upgrading and, with the assistance of the international community and financial institutions, to provide adequate financial resources for implementing programmes designed to achieve their 2020 targets on significantly improving the lives of slum-dwellers;

4. *Invites* the international community and financial institutions to contribute generously to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation to enable the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to assist developing countries in mobilizing public investment and private capital, through, among other things, public-private partnerships for slum upgrading, shelter and basic services;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

7th plenary meeting
15 April 2011

Resolution 23/10: Future activities by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in urban economy and financial mechanisms for urban upgrading, housing and basic services for the urban poor

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 56/206 of 21 December 2001, by which the General Assembly, among other things, encouraged the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to strengthen the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation in order to achieve its primary operative objective, as set out in General Assembly resolution 3327 (XXIX) of 16 December 1974,

Recalling also its resolution 19/11 of 9 May 2003, by which it requested the Executive Director to continue to work with the World Bank Group, regional development banks, other development banks, the private sector and other relevant partners to field-test approaches through pilot projects, and its resolution 20/18 of 8 April 2005, by which it called upon the Executive Director to strengthen the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation's Slum Upgrading Facility,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 61/206 of 18 December 2006, by which the General Assembly took note of the special annex for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation[24] appended by the Secretary General to the financial regulations and rules of the United Nations[25] and requested

[24] ST/SGB/2006/8.
[25] ST/SGB/2003/7.

the Governing Council to address, in a comprehensive manner, any issues relating to the Foundation at its twenty-first session, bearing in mind the need to mobilize resources for the Foundation effectively,

Recalling its resolution 21/10 of 20 April 2007, by which it requested the Executive Director to continue the work of strengthening the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation so as to accelerate the provision of finance for the mobilization of seed capital, domestic and other financial resources for shelter and related infrastructure with due priority to the needs of low-income households,

Taking note of rule 304.3.2 (c) of the special annex for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation appended by the Secretary General to the financial regulations and rules of the United Nations,

Recognizing its responsibility to issue policy directives with a view to ensuring that the resources of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation are used with maximum efficiency and effectiveness in pursuance of the Foundation's objectives,

Conscious of paragraph 56 (m) of the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[26] which calls upon States Members of the United Nations to achieve a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020, recognizing the urgent need for the provision of increased resources for affordable housing and housing-related infrastructure, prioritizing slum prevention and slum upgrading,

Taking note of the report by the Executive Director on the implementation of its resolution 21/10 on an evaluation of the experimental reimbursable seeding operations programme,[27]

Welcoming the external evaluation of the experimental financial mechanisms for pro-poor housing and infrastructure implemented from 2007 to 2011,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director, in building on the lessons learned from the experimental reimbursable seeding operations and slum upgrading facility programmes, to shift the focus of the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in the area of human settlements financing towards strengthening its normative approaches to urban economy and the promotion of finance for urban upgrading, housing and basic services for the urban poor, while taking into account geographical and regional balance;

2. *Also requests* the Executive Director, in building on the recommendations of the above mentioned report on an evaluation of the experimental reimbursable seeding operations programme, to explore as expeditiously as possible and to select, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, a partnership model with development finance institutions for future lending, guarantee and financial advisory services in the urban upgrading and housing finance sectors;

3. *Further requests* the Executive Director, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, in building on the lessons learned from and the recommendations of the external evaluation of the experimental reimbursable seeding operations programme, to transfer either the experimental

[26] General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005.
[27] HSP/GC/23/5/Add.5.

reimbursable seeding operations programme portfolio or the management of that portfolio, as the Executive Director may determine to be the most financially feasible, and the technical loan guarantee oversight responsibilities of the slum upgrading facility programme to an appropriate external development finance partner;

4. *Calls upon* Governments to support the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in its efforts to maximize its comparative advantage around normative work, partnership and regional presence and to strengthen the Programme's efforts to collaborate effectively with institutions dedicated to and primarily focused on development finance in the design and execution of finance projects and programmes that focus on innovative and pro-poor financing instruments;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty fourth session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

7th plenary meeting
15 April 2011

Resolution 23/11: Work programme and budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the biennium 2012-2013

The Governing Council,

Recalling the commitments made by Governments in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[28] to achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020 and in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development[29] to reducing by half the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 60/203 of 13 March 2006, by which the General Assembly called for increased voluntary contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, and recognizing the continued urgent need for increased and predictable financial contributions to the Foundation,

Taking note of the progress made to date in the implementation of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan, as reported in the six-monthly progress reports and the medium-term strategic and institutional plan peer review report,

Taking note also of the efforts by the Executive Director to prioritize strategic programme areas, within the framework of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan, and of the continuing institutional review,

[28] General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000.

[29] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

Taking note further of the challenges and progress made in the implementation of the gender equality action plan set out in the report of the Executive Director,[30]

Having considered the proposed work programme and budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 2012-2013[31] and the recommendations set forth in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[32]

1. *Approves* the proposed work programme and budget for 2012-2013;

2. *Also approves* the general-purpose budget of 70,221,500 United States dollars and endorses the special-purpose budget of 110,524,800 dollars for the biennium 2012-2013 detailed in the proposed work programme and budget for 2012-2013;

3. *Further approves* an increase in the general-purpose statutory reserve from 6,619,500 dollars to 7,022,150 dollars;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to develop a strategic plan for 2014-2019, including a road map for preparatory work, taking into account the recommendations of the peer review and other reviews of the medium term strategic and institutional plan for 2008-2013, for presentation to and approval by the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session;

5. *Also requests* the Executive Director to consult the Committee of Permanent Representatives during the preparation of prioritized, results-based strategic framework and work programme and budget documents for the biennium 2014-2015, and to ensure that the strategic framework and work programme and budget are aligned with the strategic plan for 2014-2019;

6. *Calls upon* the Executive Director to ensure that the strategic plan for 2014-2019 has the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women as one of its objectives with gender results defined at the higher and lower levels of expected accomplishments and gender outputs per focus area clearly integrated into the work programme;

7. *Also calls upon* the Executive Director to report on a half-yearly basis to Governments through the Committee of Permanent Representatives and to the Governing Council at its twenty fourth session on progress made in the implementation of the work programme activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

8. *Further calls upon* the Executive Director, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to reprioritize systematically, whenever necessary, the activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for 2012-2013 in a realistic and pragmatic manner in the face of possible substantial changes in funding scenarios and to adjust the level of allocations for programme activities to bring them into line with the actual level of income;

9. *Invites* the Executive Director to inform Governments through the Committee of the Permanent Representatives of any organizational changes that can

[30] HSP/GC/23/5/Add.6.
[31] HSP/GC/23/5.
[32] HSP/GC/23/5/Add.1.

be considered necessary for the effective implementation of the work programme activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

10. *Strongly encourages* the Executive Director to continue the full implementation of the results-based management system set out in the medium-term strategic and institutional plan;

11. *Authorizes* the Executive Director to reallocate general-purpose resources between subprogrammes in an amount of up to 10 per cent of the total general-purpose budget;

12. *Also authorizes* the Executive Director to reallocate, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, in excess of 10 per cent and up to 25 per cent of the total general-purpose budget;

13. *Reiterates* its call for continued financial support to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme through increased voluntary contributions and invites Governments in a position to do so, and other stakeholders where appropriate, to provide predictable multi-year funding and increased non earmarked contributions to support the implementation of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan;

14. *Requests* the Executive Director to report all reallocations and adjustments to the Committee of Permanent Representatives in the quarterly financial reports.

7th plenary meeting
15 April 2011

Resolution 23/12: Coordinated implementation of the guidelines on access to basic services for all and the guidelines on decentralization and strengthening of local authorities

The Governing Council,

Recalling its resolution 22/8 of 3 April 2009 on the guidelines on access to basic services for all and cognizant of the report of the Executive Director on the coordinated implementation of the guidelines on access to basic services for all and the guidelines on decentralization and strengthening of local authorities,[33]

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 65/165 of 2 December 2010, by which the General Assembly supported the dissemination and implementation of the two sets of guidelines,

Considering that all basic services listed in paragraph 84 of the Habitat Agenda[34] are strongly interrelated both sectorally, as the availability of one is necessary for the production or the delivery of another, and geographically as they require coordination of policies at various territorial levels,

[33] HSP/GC/23/2/Add.5.

[34] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

1. *Expresses appreciation* for the leading role of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and for the contribution of other agencies, member States and partners to developing tools for supporting the efforts of interested countries to undertake the coordinated adaptation to national circumstances and implementation of the two sets of guidelines;

2. *Invites* Governments to step up efforts to adapt and implement the two sets of guidelines in a coordinated manner and according to national circumstances by reviewing and improving their legislation, including on the application of multisectoral and multi-stakeholder strategic planning instruments at various territorial levels with emphasis on poor and marginalized settlements, and by reviewing administrative frameworks to avoid overlapping mandates and improve financial mechanisms for ensuring access to basic services for all;

3. *Invites* all relevant United Nations entities to engage systematically in a dialogue with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to ensure that their initiatives related to shelter and basic services benefit from the two sets of guidelines;

4. *Urges* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to lay special emphasis in all its programmes related to decentralization and access to basic services on enhancing national-level and regional-level exchanges on the implementation of the two sets of guidelines;

5. *Encourages* coordination between development stakeholders (such as United Nations entities, international financial institutions, development agencies and banks and international associations of local authorities) and invites them to use the two sets of guidelines to promote integrated development approaches for all basic services and support coordinated activities at the national and local levels;

6. *Calls upon* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to develop enhanced partnerships with local authorities and their international associations for the implementation and exchange of best practices of the guidelines on decentralization at the national and local levels;

7. *Also calls upon* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, within the context of the enhanced normative and operational framework of its medium-term strategic and institutional plan, to strengthen the human and financial capacities dedicated to facilitating the development and testing of multisectoral and multi-stakeholder instruments for operationalizing the two sets of guidelines and to assist interested countries, in particular developing countries, to undertake the coordinated adaptation and implementation of the two sets of guidelines;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on the progress made in the coordinated implementation of the two sets of guidelines and of the present resolution to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session.

7th plenary meeting
15 April 2011

Resolution 23/13: Governance of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 56/206 of 21 December 2001, by which the General Assembly transformed the Commission on Human Settlements and its Secretariat, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), including the United Nations and Human Settlements Foundation, into the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,

Recalling also its resolution 22/5 of 3 April 2009, by which it requested the Executive Director and the Committee of Permanent Representatives to undertake jointly an examination of the governance of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme with a view to identifying and implementing ways to improve the transparency, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness of the functioning of the existing governance structure and to identify options for any other potential relevant changes,

Acknowledging the significance of the prioritization described in the medium-term strategic and institutional plan for improved governance,

Recognizing the potential implications for the governance of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme of the outcome of the discussions under the theme of "institutional framework for sustainable development" at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, in 2012,

Expressing appreciation for the harmonious working relationship between the Committee of Permanent Representatives and the secretariat in their joint work on the review of the governance structure of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,

1. *Welcomes* the documents entitled "Quick-wins" and "Medium/long-term interventions" endorsed by the Committee of Permanent Representatives;[35]

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director on the review of the governance structure of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, in which he reported on work carried out up to and including 31 January 2011,[36] and the review of the governance structure of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, phase III,[37] which was discussed by the joint secretariat and Committee of Permanent Representatives implementation team and details work carried out after 31 January 2011 on the identification of options for further governance changes;

3. *Also takes note* of the range of options presented in the review of the governance structure of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, phase III, which are illustrative of the practical possibilities available for consideration;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director, jointly with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to examine those options further, without prejudice to

[35] HSP/GC/23/2/Add.1, annex.
[36] HSP/GC/23/2/Add.1.
[37] HSP/GC/23/INF/7.

any other emerging options, their modalities and financial and legal implications, to identify, if necessary, a preferred option;

5. *Also requests* the Executive Director, jointly with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, in an inclusive, transparent and participatory manner:

(a) To develop a procedure for the examination phase;

(b) To seek consensus on the identified option by member States of the Governing Council;

(c) To develop an action plan that defines clearly all steps that must be taken and takes into account rules and procedures of relevant United Nations bodies so that the financial, legal and procedural implications are specified;

6. *Further requests* the Executive Director to report regularly on the progress made to the Governing Council through its Bureau;

7. *Mandates* the Committee of Permanent Representatives to approve, if applicable, the action plan on behalf of the Governing Council at a meeting of the Committee;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director to present, through the appropriate channels, the action plan to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, if possible.

7th plenary meeting
15 April 2011

Resolution 23/14: Sustainable urban development through policies for safer cities and urban crime prevention

The Governing Council,

Recalling the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements,[38] the Habitat Agenda[39] and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium,[40] in which member States endorsed the universal goal of ensuring adequate shelter for all, recognizing the need to make human settlements safer and calling for the promotion of determined action against urban crime and violence,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 56/261 of 31 January 2002, 62/175 of 18 December 2007 and 65/230 of 21 December 2010, by which States were called upon to promote international cooperation aimed at supporting crime prevention,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolutions 2002/13 of 24 July 2002, 2003/26 of 22 July 2003, 2005/22 of 22 July 2005 and 2008/24 of 24 July 2008, by which the Economic and Social Council called upon Member States, relevant United Nations bodies and international financial institutions to integrate

[38] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.
[39] Ibid., annex II.
[40] General Assembly resolution S-25/2.

crime prevention considerations into their social and economic policies and programmes,

Recalling its resolution 22/8 of 3 April 2009, by which it approved guidelines on access to basic services for all, including public safety as a basic service,

Acknowledging the commitments made in the Bangkok Declaration on Synergies and Responses: Strategic Alliances in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,[41] in which Member States agreed to strengthen international cooperation in order to create an environment that was conducive to the fight against crime, promoting growth and sustainable development and eradicating poverty and unemployment through effective and balanced development strategies and crime prevention policies,

Acknowledging also the commitments made in the Salvador Declaration on Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Systems and Their Development in a Changing World,[42] in which Member States stress the need for all States to adopt national and local action plans for crime prevention that take into account, among other things, factors that place certain populations and places at higher risk of victimization and/or offending in a comprehensive, integrated and participatory manner, and for such plans to be based on the best available evidence and good practices,

Recognizing initiatives taken at the regional level, including the adoption of the Solo Declaration in June 2010, by which signatories underscored the importance of making cities peaceful and liveable for future generations,

Expressing its concern at rising crime rates and growing insecurity in many parts of the world, affecting the quality of life, sustainable livelihoods and human dignity of the inhabitants of cities and towns,

Noting with concern the impact of urban crime and violence on women and vulnerable groups, including street children and young people,

Bearing in mind that crime prevention and urban safety are highly related to institutional, political, economic, social and cultural contexts and that positive measures contribute not only to diminishing violence, but also to strengthening the social fabric in cities,

Mindful of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, on whose work the United Nations Human Settlements Programme could build in the urban context to ensure complementarity and enhance synergies, among other things,

Recalling the strategic policy decision of the secretariat of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to establish a safer cities programme in 1996 to support cities in the development and implementation of city crime prevention and urban safety strategies, and to mainstream the programme into urban sustainable development agendas, giving rise to the commitment of many cities and the enhanced contribution of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to effective global, regional and local partnerships for the delivery of urban safety,

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[41] A/CONF.203/18.

[42] General Assembly resolution 65/230 of 21 December 2010, annex.

enhanced through the establishment of a global network on safer cities and complementary cooperation with other networks related to crime prevention,

1. *Encourages* member States to consider, adopt and strengthen, as appropriate, effective urban crime prevention responses at the local and national levels for sustainable urban development and to reinforce the coordination of security, safety and social and economic policies to build safer cities;

2. *Invites* member States to consider the prevention of crime, the building of urban safety and the fostering of social cohesion as priorities to be incorporated into urban planning, management and governance policies;

3. *Also invites* member States to consider an area-based approach when developing policies on the prevention of crime, including by paying special attention to deprived neighbourhoods to ensure social and territorial cohesion;

4. *Requests* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, in cooperation with the relevant United Nations bodies, in particular the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and specialized international, regional and subregional organizations, to compile best practices on policies, norms and institutional conditions related to urban crime prevention within the context of sustainable human settlements and urban development, focusing on the respective roles and responsibilities of national governments and local authorities on this specific policy area;

5. *Calls upon* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, in accordance with the Habitat Agenda, the medium-term strategic and institutional plan and the strategic plan for safer cities 2008-2013 to mainstream the issue of crime prevention, urban safety and social cohesion as a primary component of sustainable urban development;

6. *Invites* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to identify the underlying causes of crime and violence in cities and to promote urban crime prevention by enabling productive economic activities in urban areas and sustainable urban livelihoods, thus enhancing the quality of life in cities;

7. *Calls upon* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to draft, under the auspices of the Safer Cities Programme, guidelines on access to and delivery of urban crime prevention within the context of sustainable urban development, based on consultations with member States, including through the Committee of Permanent Representatives, relevant United Nations bodies and concerned stakeholders;

8. *Encourages* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to respond to requests for assistance from local authorities, in accordance with its capacities, in their planning and development of policies and local activities aimed at reducing the impact of crime on the social and economic development of towns and cities;

9. *Requests* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to use its regional and interregional programmes as mechanisms to promote triangular, South-South, and city-to-city cooperation in this area through exchanges of experts, best practices and policy options;

10. *Invites* member States, key stakeholders and the relevant bodies of the United Nations system, where appropriate, to allocate additional regional technical and financial resources to assist the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to support local authorities in the strengthening of urban crime prevention public policies, and to support pilot projects of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme that take into account gender and vulnerable groups in all regions to assess the impact of urban crime prevention policies and activities in the strengthening of sustainable urban development;

11. *Appeals* to member States to adopt and implement urban civic intercultural programmes, where appropriate, aimed at combating racism and xenophobia, reducing the exclusion of minorities and migrants and thus promoting community cohesion in cities, as set forth in paragraph 46 of the Salvador Declaration;

12. *Invites* member States and other donors, to the extent possible, to provide technical, human and financial resources to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to support the implementation of the present resolution;

13. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

7th plenary meeting
15 April 2011

Resolution 23/15: Country activities by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

The Governing Council,

Recalling its resolution 20/15 of 8 April 2005, by which it reaffirmed that the complementarity and synergy between the operational and normative functions of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme constituted a major asset and comparative advantage and acknowledged the role of the regional offices and Habitat Programme Managers,

Recalling also its resolution 22/9 of 3 April 2009, by which it requested the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to strengthen its regional presence with a view to enhancing South South cooperation in the implementation of its work programme,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010 on system-wide coherence, by which the General Assembly emphasized the principle of national ownership and leadership, took note of the progress made by "delivering as one" countries and reiterated the objective of simplification and harmonization of business practices, rules and procedures to enhance the efficiency, accountability and transparency of the United Nations development system,

Mindful of the importance of the "delivering as one" process and the achievements made in that regard,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 65/165 of 20 December 2010 on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human

Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), by which the General Assembly noted the efforts of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in helping programme countries to mainstream the Habitat Agenda in their respective development frameworks,

Mindful of the peer review report on the medium-term strategic and institutional plan, in which it was recommended that the United Nations Human Settlements Programme should, among other things, consider a change in its organizational structure to align it better with the focus areas of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan, allocate adequate funds to regional offices from core resources to improve coordination at the global, regional and country levels, and document country level achievements systematically,

Welcoming the 2011 edition of the report of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on country activities, which reflects the expansion of the Programme's portfolio to the benefit of developing countries and countries with economies in transition,

1. *Acknowledges* the importance of country activities as part of the mandate of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and as a central component of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan and the Programme's enhanced normative and operational framework;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to mobilize and devote adequate core resources to the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of country activities aligned with the focus areas of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan and to contribute to post-disaster and post conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in affected countries;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Director to strengthen interdivisional coordination and collaboration in the definition and development of country activities;

4. *Supports* the participation of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in United Nations common country assessments and United Nations development assistance frameworks, in addition to its contribution to the work of United Nations country teams through its regional offices and Habitat Programme Managers;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director to cooperate with other relevant United Nations programmes and activities at the country level;

6. *Also requests* the Executive Director to improve the dissemination of best practices and lessons learned from country activities and to ensure that those lessons feed into the global normative work of the Programme with the goal of strengthening its accountability and effectiveness;

7. *Further requests* the Executive Director to update regularly the country programme documents in collaboration with the relevant Governments and United Nations country teams and to support the organization of national urban forums as instruments of policy debates and awareness raising and as platforms for the preparation of sessions of the World Urban Forum, and to inform the Committee of Permanent Representatives about those updates;

8. *Requests* the Executive Director to develop subregional, regional and interregional programmes as mechanisms to promote South-South cooperation, including triangular cooperation, through exchanges of experts, best practices and policy options;

9. *Also requests* the Executive Director to give due consideration in the forthcoming organizational review to the need for increased decentralization and delegation of authority to enhance the efficiency and impact of country activities, including with regard to the regional and outposted offices, at various levels;

10. *Invites* all Governments in a position to do so to contribute financially to the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of country activities by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme;

11. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on progress made in promoting country activities, including the implementation of the present resolution, to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session.

7th plenary meeting
15 April 2011

Resolution 23/16: Formulation of a global housing strategy

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988, by which the General Assembly adopted the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000,

Recalling also resolution 17/13 of 14 May 1999 of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements, by which the Executive Director was requested to conduct a review of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 within the framework of the Habitat Agenda,[43]

Considering paragraph 65 of the Habitat Agenda, which encourages the periodic evaluation and revision, as necessary, of enabling housing policies with a view to creating a framework for efficient and effective housing delivery systems,

Taking note of the report of the fifth session of the World Urban Forum,[44] in which participants underscored that equitable access to housing and basic urban services required fundamental shifts in current land and housing policies and that new approaches to planning and new paradigms for service delivery were needed,

Welcoming initiatives at the regional level, such as the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development, the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development and the Regional Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities of Housing and Urbanization in Latin American and the Caribbean, and acknowledging the work carried out by those forums as valuable contributions to further promoting equitable access to housing,

[43] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.
[44] HSP/WUF/5/3.

Acknowledging that a well-functioning housing sector is key to attaining sustainable urban development,

Emphasizing that a global housing strategy promoted by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme will provide general guidance in terms of housing policies to be implemented in accordance with regional and local circumstance within the context of sustainable urban development,

1. *Requests* the Executive Director, in consultation with Governments, including through the Committee of Permanent Representatives, and with relevant local government executing agencies of housing projects funded by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, to review the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and to formulate a new global housing strategy;

2. *Invites* Governments to support the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in undertaking the above-mentioned tasks;

3. *Calls upon* the Executive Director to take into account, in the development of a new global housing strategy, the challenges of providing adequate and sustainable housing and basic infrastructure and the need to integrate housing policies into broader urban planning strategies and governmental actions, aligning them with other social, economic and environmental policies;

4. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

7th plenary meeting
15 April 2011

Resolution 23/17: Sustainable urban development through expanding equitable access to land, housing, basic services and infrastructure

The Governing Council,

Recalling the targets set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[45] of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020 and halving by 2015 the proportion of people unable to reach or afford safe drinking water and the target agreed in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development[46] to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation,

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[47] in which Heads of State and Government resolved, among other things, to achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020, recognizing the urgent need for the provision of increased resources for affordable housing and housing-

[45] General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000.

[46] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[47] General Assembly resolution 61/1 of 16 September 2005.

related infrastructure, prioritizing slum prevention and slum upgrading, and to encourage support for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 64/236 of 24 December 2009, which outlines the three objectives of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development; to assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development; and to address new and emerging challenges) and further specifies two themes for the Conference, to be discussed and refined during the preparatory process: the green economy within the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and an institutional framework for sustainable development,

Recalling Governing Council resolution 20/2 of 8 April 2005, on the establishment of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development, and its paragraph 4, on other regional organizations, such as the Regional Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities of Housing and Urbanization in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development,

Acknowledging the Bamako Declaration and Action Plan adopted by the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development in November 2010, the Solo Declaration and the Solo Implementation Plan adopted at the Third Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development on 24 June 2010 and the Buenos Aires Declaration adopted at the nineteenth Regional Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities of Housing and Urbanization of Latin America and the Caribbean on 3 September 2010,

Recalling the Habitat Agenda,[48] in particular its paragraphs 65 and 67, which encourages the formulation and periodic evaluation and revision, as necessary, of enabling housing policies, with a view to creating a framework for efficient and effective housing delivery systems, as the cornerstone for the provision of shelter for all,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution S-25/2 of 9 June 2001 adopting the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, by which the Assembly resolved to promote access to safe drinking water to all and to facilitate the provision of basic infrastructure and urban services, including adequate sanitation, waste management and sustainable transport, through transparent and accountable management of public services and partnerships with the private sector and non-profit organizations for the delivery of those services,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 65/165 of 20 December 2010, by which the General Assembly supported the dissemination and implementation of the international guidelines on decentralization and access to basic services for all adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in its resolutions 21/3 of 20 April 2007 and 22/8 of 3 April 2009,

Recalling, as part of the International Year of Biodiversity, the Aichi/Nagoya Declaration on Local Authorities and Biodiversity of the City Biodiversity Summit

[48] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

2010 of 26 October 2010 and the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity endorsed by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in its decision X/22, in October 2010,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 65/153 of 20 December 2010, promoting a global effort to realize sustainable sanitation through "Sustainable sanitation: the five-year-drive to 2015", which is of particular relevance in growing cities and slums where poor sanitation and lack of wastewater treatment seriously endanger public health and water resources,

Recognizing the need to minimize the negative impacts of climate change on human settlements, especially by reducing the vulnerability of poor populations and increasing the adaptive capacities of cities,

Recalling the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements[49] and paragraph 75 of the Habitat Agenda, the latter of which encourages legal access to land to be seen as a strategic prerequisite for the provision of adequate shelter for all and for the development of sustainable human settlements affecting both urban and rural areas,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 65/165 of 20 December 2010, by which the General Assembly encouraged Governments to support the World Urban Campaign as an important tool for promoting the administration of land and property issues, and 59/239 of 22 December 2004, by which the General Assembly encouraged Governments to support the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure and the Global Campaign for Urban Governance as important tools for promoting the administration of land and property rights,

Recognizing the notable contributions of the Global Land Tool Network facilitated by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to building partnerships for developing and implementing land tools at scale, to championing the cause of the poor and vulnerable groups such as women and slum-dwellers, to promoting inclusive land policies and to developing affordable and equitable land administration systems that emphasize the important transitional role played by intermediate tenure and incremental approaches,

Emphasizing that sustainable urban development is essential for humankind and that Governments need to formulate appropriate policies and make deliberate interventions to create an enabling environment for the provision of secure tenure rights and the delivery and management of land, housing, basic services and infrastructure,

Understanding the imperative need for all levels of government to work together in a coherent approach to service provision,

1. *Welcomes* the dialogue on sustainable urban development through expanding equitable access to land, housing, basic services and infrastructure at the twenty-third session of the Governing Council, contributing to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in 2012, and requests the Executive Director to ensure the transmission, through the President of the Governing Council, of the results of the dialogue to the Bureau of the Conference;

[49] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

2. *Takes note* of the theme paper of the Executive Director on the dialogue of the twenty third session of the Governing Council entitled "Sustainable urban development through expanding equitable access to land, housing, basic services and infrastructure";[50]

3. *Requests* the Executive Director, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to ensure the involvement of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;

4. *Encourages* Governments and Habitat Agenda partners:

(a) To include the issue of sustainable urban development in their contributions to the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, including on the two themes identified in paragraph 20 (a) of General Assembly resolution 64/236 of 24 December 2009;

(b) To develop strategic responses to the problems of sustainable urban development, building on the recommendations of the Habitat Agenda, the Millennium Development Goals, the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the outcome of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly;

(c) To mobilize the commitment of Governments and Habitat Agenda partners at the international, national and local levels to promote decentralization and improve urban governance to ensure expanded equitable access to land, housing, basic services and infrastructure and to secure tenure rights for all segments of society within an integrated urban governance and sustainable urban development framework;

5. *Also encourages* Governments and Habitat Agenda partners, with regard to urban planning, mobility, climate change and biodiversity issues:

(a) To consider seriously increasing urban density through intensification of land use, as part of improved urban planning, so as to promote development patterns that allow housing for all, increased job opportunities and reduced urban sprawl, to reduce infrastructure investment costs, the ecological footprint of urban centres and demand for transport and energy use, and to overcome a growing social divide, spatial fragmentation and resulting land use patterns;

(b) To address this social divide through support for strategic planning approaches that seek to balance the dimensions of sustainable urban development (social, economic and environmental) based on wide consultative processes;

(c) To promote public transport and mass transit systems, non-motorized transport and the provision of equitable space for pedestrians and cyclists, along with improvements in road systems and urban connectivity;

(d) To invite international agencies to facilitate the improvement of access by cities, and by local and regional authorities, to climate change mitigation and adaptation financing, prioritizing countries that are most vulnerable to climate change, including least developed countries and small island developing States, and

[50] HSP/GC/23/4.

to monitor the implementation of any projects funded for appropriateness and completion;

(e) To undertake coordinated action to promote cities and biodiversity, including urban forestry and urban wetlands and ecosystems services, as an integral part of their sustainable urban development strategies, and to cooperate with developing countries and their local authorities to strengthen their capacities in promoting, measuring, monitoring and protecting urban biodiversity and developing local biodiversity strategies and action plans;

6. *Further encourages* Governments and Habitat Agenda partners, with regard to increasing access to land, basic services and infrastructure options, to consider:

(a) Reforming regulatory and institutional frameworks, codes, norms, laws and standards, if necessary, and developing and implementing enabling policies, regulations and strategies, taking into consideration the implementation of comprehensive systems of social protection;

(b) Strengthening the capacities of administrative and financial institutions and delivery systems responsible for expanding access to land, housing, basic services and infrastructure, particularly by the poor, women, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups;

(c) Promoting integrated urban governance to foster the participation of beneficiary groups in the decision making process and to support the efforts of cities and local and regional authorities to innovate and learn from one another through the sharing of information, innovative ideas, expertise and best practices to meet the challenges that they face in the areas of land, housing, basic services and infrastructure;

(d) Promoting decentralization and the role of local authorities and enabling institutional frameworks for partnerships with service providers and civil society, sustainable financing, pro-poor policies and environmental sustainability in the delivery of basic services for all;

7. *Encourages* Governments and Habitat Agenda partners, with regard to land issues:

(a) To implement land policy development and regulatory and procedural reform programmes, if necessary, so as to achieve sustainable urban development and to manage climate change better, ensuring that land interventions are anchored within effective land governance frameworks;

(b) To promote security of tenure for all segments of society by recognizing and respecting a plurality of tenure systems, identifying and adopting, as appropriate to particular situations, intermediate forms of tenure arrangements, adopting alternative forms of land administration and land records alongside conventional land administration systems, and stepping up efforts to achieve secure tenure in post-conflict and post-disaster situations;

(c) To review and improve urban land governance mechanisms, including land and spatial planning administration and management, land information systems and land-based tax systems, so as to strengthen tenure rights and expand secure and

sustainable access to land, housing, basic services and infrastructure, particularly for the poor and women;

(d) To create mechanisms for broadening land-based revenue streams, including by improving the competencies and capacities of local and regional authorities in the field of land and property valuation and taxation, so as to generate additional local revenue for pro-poor policies and to finance infrastructure development;

8. *Also encourages* Governments and Habitat Agenda partners, with regard to housing issues:

(a) To foster the development of a thorough assessment of the performance of their housing sectors;

(b) To promote enabling housing policies, including slum upgrading initiatives, and reforms that facilitate the delivery of affordable and adequate housing solutions for all social groups;

(c) To enhance the contribution of the housing sector to national economic development through policy and institutional reforms;

(d) To provide support for the development of a global housing strategy and its presentation to the Governing Council and the General Assembly, as outlined in the medium-term strategic and institutional plan 2008-2013;

9. *Invites* the international community and financial institutions to contribute adequate financial resources to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation to enable the Programme to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in mobilizing public investment and private capital to achieve sustainable urban development;

10. *Requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

7th plenary meeting
15 April 2011

Resolution 23/18: Natural disaster risk reduction, preparedness, prevention and mitigation as a contribution to sustainable urban development

The Governing Council,

Expressing its deep concern at the number and scale of natural disasters and the massive loss of life and the long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies throughout the world resulting therefrom,

Recognizing the increasing challenges facing the disaster response and preparedness capacity of States Members of the United Nations and the United Nations system,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 on strengthening the coordination of the humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations and recognizing the importance in natural disaster risk reduction, preparedness, prevention and mitigation of acting within relevant national and international frameworks, in particular United Nations development assistance frameworks and United Nations country teams, and in accordance with the principle of "one United Nations",

Recalling also the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,[51] which established five priorities for action: to ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation; to identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning; to support scientific research on all aspects of disaster risk reduction and to use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels; to reduce underlying risk factors; and to strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 65/157 of 20 December 2010, on the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, by which the General Assembly called upon the United Nations system to integrate the goals of the Hyogo Framework for Action in their strategies and programmes,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 65/264 of 28 January 2011, by which, among other things, the General Assembly called for the updating of early warning systems, disaster preparedness and risk reduction measures at all levels, called for additional international cooperation efforts to broaden the use of national, local, regional and subregional capacities for disaster preparedness and response, and urged both Member States and the United Nations system to give special attention to the needs of the residents of areas prone to natural disasters,

Recalling also its resolutions 19/7 and 19/9 of 9 May 2003 relating to United Nations Human Settlements Programme activities in post-conflict, natural and human-made disaster assessment and reconstruction and its work, in close coordination with appropriate multilateral and bilateral agencies, on human settlements needs in the reconstruction of countries and territories affected by armed conflicts or other human-caused or natural disasters,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 59/239 of 22 December 2004, by which the General Assembly requested the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, within its mandate, to continue to support the efforts of countries affected by natural disasters and complex emergencies to develop prevention, rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes for the transition from relief to development and encouraged the Programme to continue to work closely with the members of the United Nations system,

Recalling its resolution 20/17 of 8 April 2005 and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme Strategic Policy on Human Settlements and Crisis,

Recalling also its resolution 22/8 of 3 April 2009 in which it emphasized the need to promote environmental sustainability in the delivery of basic services for all, including sustainable urban planning, risk reduction, early warning systems and appropriate responses to natural disasters,

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[51] A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2.

Recognizing regional declarations, initiatives and commitments, including the Solo Declaration adopted at the Third Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development, in which Asian and Pacific ministers responsible for housing and urban development underlined the importance of strengthening cooperation between member countries in developing disaster prevention mechanisms and in emergency assistance and reconstruction and recovery of areas damaged by disasters and extreme-climate change related events,

Noting with appreciation the partnerships established by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme with various disaster management and humanitarian institutions for the development and implementation of vulnerability reduction and sustainable reconstruction and rehabilitation activities, in particular the memorandum of understanding concluded between the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the Secretariat of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and the cooperation in implementing the campaign to make cities resilient,

1. *Requests* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to support strongly, within its mandate, the implementation of regional, subregional, national and local urban risk reduction and early warning programmes, within established parameters, including the production of guidelines and training programmes and the collection and dissemination of best practices;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to strengthen programming, in line with General Assembly resolution 65/157 of 20 December 2010, the pertinent elements of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan and the Strategic Policy on Human Settlements in Crisis for urban disaster risk reduction, vulnerability reduction and limiting the after-effects of disasters;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Director to ensure that all necessary financial and administrative mechanisms, including dedicated extrabudgetary resources, are in place to enable, within the work programme and budget, upon request by member States, the rapid deployment of urban experts within the mandate of the United Nations Human Settlement Programme to address imminent urban natural disaster risk and immediate needs, following natural disasters, within United Nations country teams and following the one United Nations principle;

4. *Further requests* the Executive Director to foster a better understanding and knowledge of the causes of urban disasters and to build and strengthen the coping capacities of member States through, among other things, the transfer and exchange of experiences and technical knowledge, educational and training programmes for disaster risk reduction, access to relevant early warning information, data and systems and the strengthening of national, subregional and local institutional cooperation, including the promotion of community participation;

5. *Encourages* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to provide technical assistance in disaster response, disaster risk reduction and reduction of urban vulnerability to requesting member States at imminent risk of natural disaster, including through the facilitation of South-South, triangular and city-to-city cooperation;

6. *Encourages* the Executive Director to consider allocating additional resources, within the work programme and budget and subject to availability, to

advocacy, policy and normative support for disaster risk reduction to member States;

7. *Encourages* Governments in a position to do so and relevant international and regional organizations to disseminate and share, with the support of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, their expertise and experience in urban natural-disaster mitigation measures, including hazard mapping, early-warning systems, life-saving preparedness and preventive programmes, best practices and appropriate design standards;

8. *Also encourages* Governments in a position to do so and relevant organizations to provide upon request rapid assistance to countries affected by natural disasters and complex emergencies in their rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts;

9. *Invites* Governments, donors, relevant civil society groups and organizations, corporations and private sector representatives in a position to do so to contribute to the implementation of the present resolution;

10. *Requests* the Executive Director to ensure implementation of the present resolution through close coordination and collaboration with appropriate multilateral, regional and subregional organizations and agencies, in particular through United Nations country teams under the framework of one United Nations, and to build upon existing regional commitments and initiatives;

11. *Also requests* the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council at its twenty fourth session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

7th plenary meeting
15 April 2011

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